

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for the examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Carl Giordano on June 18, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. Claim 1 is rewritten as:

- - A polymeric stratified-phase-separated composite comprising: a film of a liquid, a layer of a polymerized material covering the film of liquid and supporting members formed of the polymerized material and extending from the layer of polymerized material through the film of liquid, the polymeric stratified-phase-separated composite being provided, with its film of liquid side, on a substrate surface having in accordance with a predetermined pattern selected first and second regions, the first regions being functionalized for selective accumulation of the polymerized material at a high rate of polymerization through use with a low concentration of polymerization inhibitor and the second regions being functionalized for selective accumulation of the liquid at a low rate of polymerization through use of with a high concentration of polymerization inhibitor, wherein the supporting members extend selectively and being self-aligned onto the selected first regions. - -.

3. Claim 11 is rewritten as:

- - A method of manufacturing a polymeric stratified-phase-separated composite comprising a film of a liquid, a layer of polymerized material covering the film of liquid and supporting members formed of polymerized material and extending from the layer of polymerized material through the film of liquid and being self-aligned onto selected first regions of a substrate surface, the method comprising: providing a substrate surface having, in accordance with a predetermined pattern, selected first and second regions, the first regions being functionalized for selective accumulation of the polymerized material and the second regions being functionalized for selective accumulation of the liquid, wherein said first region having has a low concentration of polymerization inhibitor to allow for a high rate of polymerization and said second region having has a high concentration of polymerization inhibitor to allow for a low rate of polymerization; providing onto the substrate surface, a layer of polymerizable stratified-phase-separable material; obtaining the polymeric stratified-phase-separated composite from the polymerizable stratified-phase-separable material by inducing polymerization of the polymerizable stratified-phase-separable material at least at locations where the layer of polymerizable stratified-phase-separable material is adjacent to the first regions.

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4. On page 1 of the Specification, the heading: - - Background of the Invention - - is inserted as Line 5.
5. On page 1 of the Specification, the heading: - - Brief Description of the Invention - - is inserted as Line 25.
6. On page 7 of the Specification, the heading: - - Brief Description of the Drawings - - is inserted as Line 30.
7. On page 8 of the Specification, the heading: - - Detailed Description of the Invention - - is inserted as Line 12.
8. The Abstract is rewritten as: - -

ABSTRACT

A polymeric stratified-phase-separated composite (6) which is mechanically robust and simple to manufacture comprises a film of liquid (7), a layer of polymerized material (9) covering the thin film of liquid and supporting members (11) formed of polymerized material and extending from the layer of polymerized material through the thin film of liquid. The supporting members extend onto selected first regions (5b) of a substrate surface (5). The substrate surface has, laid out in accordance with a predetermined pattern, selected first (5b) and second (5a) regions. The first regions are functionalized for selective accumulation of the liquid. ~~In one embodiment the first and second regions are regions of high and low affinity for polymerizable material respectively. In another, a~~ difference in rate of polymerization is induced by using for example different concentrations of polymerization inhibitor in the first and second regions. - -.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The closest cited prior art of record, US 6,486,932, fails to fairly teach or suggest, even in view of US 5,739,882 and US 6,322,861, a polymeric stratified-phase-separated composite comprising a film of a liquid, a layer of a polymerized material covering the film of liquid and supporting members formed of the polymerized material and extending from the layer of polymerized material through the film of liquid, the polymeric stratified-phase-separated composite being provided, with its film of liquid side, on a substrate surface having in accordance with a predetermined pattern selected first and second regions, the first regions being functionalized for selective accumulation of the polymerized material at a high rate of polymerization with a low concentration of polymerization inhibitor and the second regions being functionalized for selective accumulation of the liquid at a low rate of polymerization with a high concentration of polymerization inhibitor, wherein the supporting members extend selectively, being self-aligned onto the selected first regions.

None of the references teach the presence of a polymerization inhibitor, let alone low or high concentrations, in either the first or second regions of the substrate surface.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sow-Fun Hon whose telephone number is (571)272-1492. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample, can be reached on (571)272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Sophie Hon/
Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/David R. Sample/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794